

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**The Pallid Cuckoo in the South-West.**—The following summary which includes some records not previously published, may be of interest in the light of Dr. J. Gentilli's review of the movements of the Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*) in *The Western Australian Naturalist*, vol. 2, no. 3, 1950, p. 59:—

Locality	Year	First Seen	First Calls	Last Calls	Remarks
Nangeenan	1934	Aug. 7	Aug. 7	Aug. 21	
Nangeenan	1935	July 4	Aug. 12	Sept. 22	
Nangeenan	1936	Aug. 6	Aug. 6	Sept. 20	Scaree. Few records this season.
Peel Estate	1937	May 30	June 4	Dec. 28	Juveniles present until end of Feb., 1938.
Peel Estate	1938	May 29	June 13	Nov. 30	Juveniles present in Dec.
Peel Estate	1939	.....	April 16	Dec. 7	Juveniles present until Feb., 1940.
Peel Estate	1940	.....	June 17	Dec. 13	
Bassendean	1941	.....	June 17	.....	
Perth	1942	.....	July 5	.....	
Bilbarin	1946	.....	May 9	Dec. —	
Caron	1947	.....	June 22	Aug. 31	
Caron	1948	.....	Aug. 1	Aug. 31	
Leonora	1949	.....	One juvenile present	October 6-13	

On the whole these dates agree with the movement pattern postulated by Dr. Gentilli, the few records falling outside of the suggested periods possibly reflecting unusual seasonal conditions.

Dates of last calls are naturally harder to obtain accurately than the dates of first calls and the date of last calls given here should be regarded as correct to within a few days only.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Leonora.

**Introduced Land Snails.**—Since the publication of the paper by D. L. Serventy on the spread of the Mediterranean Land Snail (*Helix pisana*) on Rottnest Island (*The Western Australian Naturalist*, vol. 2, 1949, p. 38) I have found this snail at Bibra Lake. It occurs in large numbers and has been observed over the last three years in this area. In March of this year a small patch of the Dune Snail (*Cochlicella acuta*) was observed for the first time at Bibra Lake.

In February of this year the Dune Snail was also found in considerable numbers on Point John in the Point Peron area. On previous visits it had not been seen.

During May of this year the Mediterranean Land Snail was also seen in the Pemberton area. Several hundred were found near the steam kilns used for seasoning karri. No others were located in the area and local residents appeared to be unfamiliar with them. Since trucks loaded with timber leave regularly for Bunbury it seems likely that on their return the snail is brought with them. Another possibility is their transport by campers at the

southern beaches. The former seems more likely since the only occurrence is in the mill area itself.

Car transport probably plays a large part in spreading the snail, since after leaving Point Peron during a stay of only four hours a *Helix pisana* was found on the inside roof of a car.

—V. N. SERVENTY, Subiaco.

**Courtship Display of Rufous Whistler.**—The following three notes refer to a display of the Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*) which is doubtless identical with the "bowing display" mentioned in *Birds of Western Australia*, Serventy and Whittell, 1948.

October 7, 1943, at Tarwonga, Victoria: Observed a pair of Rufous Whistlers in display. The hen continued calling with an unfamiliar note while the cock rooked backwards and forwards rapidly. Both changed their position from time to time. This was maintained for some minutes.

April 18, 1948, at Caron, W.A.: Noted a cock Rufous Whistler in display. This bird, while perched in a tree, "see-sawed" backwards and forwards with tail only slightly elevated.

September 1, 1948, at Caron, W.A.: Observed a ceremony similar to the one described in the last note. Two birds, one apparently a typical hen Rufous Whistler, the other a similarly plumaged bird but not so markedly striated—perhaps not striated at all. This second bird, presumably a male in juvenile plumage, pursued the assumed hen from tree to tree with frequent pauses, during which both birds kept up a moderately fast "see-saw" movement. A typical song was kept up throughout.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Leonora.

**Marsh Sandpiper and Wood Sandpiper at Jandakot Lake.**—On January 31, 1950, I collected for the Western Australian Museum two rare sandpipers at Jandakot Lake, one of them being the first record of the species for the southern part of Western Australia. This was the Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*). There was only a solitary individual wading about the water's edge. It was wary and moved at a quick pace when it saw me. The specimen (W.A. Museum Coll. no. A 6706) was a male; total length, 9½ in.; iris, brown; beak, black; legs, green.

The second bird obtained on the same occasion was a Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), already recorded as a rather rare visiting wader on local swamps and rivers (see Angus Robinson, *W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 1, 1947, p. 86). Like the other this was also very timid and on several occasions flew far out over the water. Eventually it perched with great ease on a clump of dry sticks on the shore, in company with several Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*). No attempt was made by the swallows to molest the sandpiper in any way.

—K. G. BULLER, W.A. Museum, Perth.